

Drugs.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Halting Smugglers Almost Hopeless

By Jack Anderson

Stopping the drug smugglers is almost a hopeless task in the opinion of the man in charge of the drug crackdown.

John Ingersoll, the nation's narcotics chief, gave congressmen a gloomy report the other day behind closed doors.

"I guess," he said, "we are going to have to resign ourselves to the fact that we are going to live with a drug problem in this country, and we are going to have to cope with it the best we can."

Summarizing the problem, the lawman pointed out: "Each year some 210 million people come across our borders or through our ports of entry. The number of ships that call at our ports are numbered in the hundreds of thousands, and we also have this number of aircraft flights that come in through international ports of entry, let alone the number of automobiles that come across borders. . . .

"Unless we are going to call out the Army and the Marine Corps and the Navy, even then I doubt that we would be able to totally exclude the smuggling of drugs into the country."

"But we can do it if there is no demand. Where there is no demand, there is no drug problem."

"That is a little unrealistic for there not to be a demand," suggested Rep. Ralph Metcalfe (D-Ill.), "since we have so many thousands presently addicted to (heroin), and since it is habit forming."

"It probably is unrealistic, Mr. Metcalfe," agreed Ingersoll.

Anti-Drug Forces

He told how he had started in 1968 to cope with the drug epidemic with "hardly more than 600 agents."

"Our manpower has (now) increased to nearly 1,500 agents, plus another 1,300 support and professional personnel," he reported. "Our foreign offices have increased from 13 to 31. U.S. Customs manpower devoted to this area has at least doubled. The Departments of State, Defense and the CIA have become involved in one aspect or another."

"A Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention has been established in the White House. An Office of Drug

Abuse Law Enforcement has been created to attack street level pushers by using the device of grand jury inquiry, and a cabinet-level committee has been formed to coordinate the government's total activities.

"Obviously, the United States government is totally committed now to a successful battle against drug abuse in all of its ugly dimensions."

Yet all of this, he acknowledged, won't lick the drug problem. "The final answer," he said, "will come from reducing the demand. And the demand will be reduced only when the people of this country develop an intolerance for addiction and drug abuse . . . and for those who traffic in the drugs."

Deceptive Advertising—The nation's tenth largest bank, the First National Bank of Chicago, spent \$80,000 last month on an advertisement attacking environmental lawsuits. These have caused delays in building nuclear power plants, offshore oil rigs and the Alaskan pipeline, which could bring about "a disastrous power shortage," warned the bank. It even fantasized an exact time for the disaster:

January 22, 1973, at 6:42 p.m. The bank published the warning, claimed the ad, "in the public interest." However, the bank neglected to mention its own interest in power utilities; it holds at least four million shares of stock in seven utilities.

Refund Delay—Fred Hickman, an acting Assistant Treasury Secretary, denied our report that the big auto manufacturers have been in no hurry to refund excise taxes to new car buyers. The Treasury helped rush back the refunds, he said, "in a short period." This will dumbfound the hundreds of letter writers who have complained to us and to Ralph Nader about delays up to seven months. If taxpayers waited the same "short period" before they paid their income taxes to Hickman, the IRS would be slapping them with summons. Hickman went on to say that "it is the auto manufacturers who paid the tax" to the Treasury. The truth, of course, is that the car buyers paid the tax to the manufacturers.

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